

(Rept. No. 113-617) on the resolution (H. Res. 748) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5682) to approve the Keystone XL pipeline, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### NDAA/MEPS ACT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today Congress returns to session with little time to complete business on a range of important matters, which is why I am calling on the Senate to take swift action on the National Defense Authorization Act.

The NDAA, which passed the House in May, authorizes policy for the Pentagon, and this year included reforms to ensure our troops are more adequately trained and equipped, both mentally and physically.

A recent Army study found that nearly half the soldiers who reported suicide attempts indicated their first attempt was prior to enlistment. And I am proud to say the House version of the NDAA includes provisions identical to the Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers Act, or MEPS Act, that I introduced earlier in the year. That will help address this challenge.

The MEPS Act enables the Pentagon to establish a baseline to properly track changes in the servicemembers' behavioral health by instituting a requirement that all incoming troops undergo a mental health assessment upon enlistment.

It is time for the Senate to act on this bipartisan legislation that has the support of over 40 veterans' and military advocacy groups.

#### SIGMA GAMMA RHO FOUNDERS DAY

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho, which today proudly celebrates 92 years of service.

Established in 1922 at Butler University, Sigma Gamma Rho engrained in me and countless women the value of public service. Sisters include former Congresswoman Lindy Boggs, the first woman to represent Louisiana; my colleague, the Honorable Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN of Florida; Hattie McDaniel, the first African American woman to receive an Academy Award; and our Grand Basileus, Bonitta Her-ring.

Sigma Gamma Rho played an integral role in the civil rights movement, as members fought to overturn Jim Crow laws and advance women's equality.

Today Sigma Gamma Rho continues their service in promoting education and awareness in communities on issues like health equality and financial literacy.

For 92 years, Sigma Gamma Rho has been on the front lines of making our Nation better through scholarship, sisterhood, and service. I am honored to be a part of this legacy and wish many more years of success to my sisters in Sigma Gamma Rho.

#### STUNNING CONTEMPT FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, everyone remembers the promise the President made while promoting his health care law: "If you like your health care plan, you can keep it." He broke his promise.

We just learned that one of the law's chief architects, Professor Jon Gruber, has come clean and admitted the deceit used to get the law passed. But Professor Gruber also revealed a stunning contempt for the American people. He called us stupid.

This reminds me of when Lucy was trying to get Charlie Brown to kick the football. Charlie says to Lucy, "I don't mind your dishonesty half as much as I mind your opinion of me."

In this case, Mr. Speaker, the American people mind both the administration's dishonesty and its opinion of them.

The professor now regrets his comments. But does he regret that my constituents, Don and Karen of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and millions of other Americans have lost their health care plan because of ObamaCare? Does he regret that steelworkers in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, and countless others are seeing their health insurance premiums skyrocket?

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, does the President regret it?

#### IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary service and selfless sacrifice of our Nation's veterans.

Each year, on the 11th day of the 11th month, we pause to pay tribute to our veterans, the men and women who served this country with honor and distinction.

To the almost 22 million veterans in the United States and the 43,000 veterans who live in my congressional district, I am here to say thank you for your service and sacrifice. You answered the call of service and never wavered.

Whether at home or abroad, whether at war or at times of peace, you kept our Nation safe and protected our freedoms. In gratitude and humility, it is now our turn to serve you, providing the benefits and the resources you deserve and earned.

#### RUSSIA INVADES UKRAINE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today, NATO's Commander Breedlove said in Bulgaria, "We have seen columns of Russian equipment, primarily Russian tanks, Russian artillery, Russian air defense systems, and Russian combat troops entering into Ukraine." In response, Ukraine has redeployed troops to the east to counter the insurgency. But these soldiers are severely under-supplied.

Ukraine had an election just a couple of weeks ago, the most transparent, the most free, and the most pro-Western election in history. But pro-Russian parliamentarians received less than 10 percent of the vote.

Today, once again, Ukraine faces war, as the ceasefire there collapsed as Russia attempts to reassert its influence by sinister and illegal means.

Ukraine's young soldiers don't have proper boots or weapons or defensive equipment. How many times must Ukraine be invaded before we call it an invasion?

I call upon the House to pass H.R. 5190, the bill I introduced with my fellow Ukrainian Caucus cochair, JIM GERLACH of Pennsylvania, to provide meaningful humanitarian aid and security assistance to Ukraine. The Senate has passed S. 2828 that does much the same.

Let us stop the advance of this tyranny in the new century. Liberty is calling. Let us measure up in this lameduck session.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE HOWARD COBLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight to pay tribute to the dean of the North Carolina delegation and our beloved colleague of many years, HOWARD COBLE.

HOWARD COBLE has been a dedicated public servant to the people of North Carolina and a champion for honest, effective government. For three decades, he has taken great care to represent the values and concerns of Sixth District residents.

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It is a profound honor to call HOWARD a dear friend, and it saddens me to